NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. Neil E. Stevens has been appointed forest pathologist in the Kansas Experiment Station.

The Simmons Bill, a national law regulating the importation of nursery stock, became effective October 1, 1912.

Miss A. E. Jenkins has been appointed scientific assistant in the pathological herbarium of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Washington.

A series of articles on "Edible Toadstools" is being contributed by Mr. McCubbin, of Guelph, to the *Ontario Natural Science Bulletin.*

Several new species of bacteria causing diseases of orchids were recently described by G. L. Pavarino (Atti R. Accad. Lincei V. **20**: 233–237. 1911).

A course in city forestry is being offered by the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, including a thorough course in forest pathology.

Mr. J. S. Cooley, assistant in plant pathology at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, has a fellowship at the Missouri Botanical Garden this year.

Dr. Harry B. Humphrey, for three years professor of plant pathology in the State College of Washington, has been advanced to the position of head of the department of botany.

The Japanese chestnut has been found by A. Prunet, at Lindois, to be highly resistant, if not immune, to the black canker or root disease so fatal to the European chestnut.

The classification of the fungi according to their cytological and biological characters has been attempted by P. Vuillemin in one of a series of volumes devoted to fungi.

Insects play only a secondary rôle in the spread of ergot among forage grasses, according to results obtained by E. Gain (Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol. [Paris] 72: 189–191. 1912).

At the school of botany, University of Texas, Dr. I. M. Lewis has been promoted from instructor to adjunct professor and Dr. F. McAllister has been appointed an instructor in botany.

Two important papers on the relationship of the chestnut canker fungus, one by P. J. Anderson and H. W. Anderson and the other by C. L. Shear, appeared in *Phytopathology* for October, 1912.

Professor R. Kent Beattie, formerly head of the department of botany in the State College of Washington, has resigned to accept a position in the Division of Plant Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry.

A disease of the beech in the Rhine region, which quickly kills trees seventy or eighty years old, is discussed by Dr. P. Magnus (Gesell. Naturf. Freunde Berlin 436–439. 1911), and declared to be due to *Armillaria mucida.*

In an article on some fungous diseases of the prickly pear (Ann. Myc. 10: 113–134. 1912), F. A. Wolf discusses *Sphaerella Opuntiae, Perisporium Wrightii, Hendersonia Opuntiae,* and several other less destructive species.

The very injurious effects of *Armillaria mellea,* which attacks the roots of a great variety of trees, are discussed by W. T. Horne (Mo. Bull. Com. Hort. Cal. 1: 216–225. 1912) and preventive measures of various kinds are suggested.

Professor R. B. Thaxter, of Harvard University, sailed for Trinidad October 11 to continue his researches on the Laboulbe-

niaceae. Professor Lyman, of Dartmouth College, will have charge of Professor Thaxter's work during his absence.

Dr. H. W. Anderson has been appointed Rose professor of botany at Wabash College, and Professor J. S. Caldwell, of the University of Nashville, has accepted the professorship of botany in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

Dr. F. J. Seaver accompanied Dr. N. L. Britton on a visit to the Bermudas in December and obtained a representative collection of the fungi of those islands. Comparatively little had been previously known of this group of plants in the Bermudas.

It is believed by Stockdale, of Barbados, that a number of fungi attacking Para rubber trees, such as *Thyridaria tarda, Hymenochaete noxia, Fomes semitostus,* and *Corticium salmonicolor,* may be introduced through the careless importation of rubber stumps.

The disease known as "peach yellows" is regarded by E. W. Morse and L. W. Fetzer (Science **35**: 393. 1912) as a constitutional disease which is inheritable, the well-known symptoms being due to a disturbance of equilibrium among the enzymes of the plant.

An excellent descriptive treatment of the species of *Pholiota* occurring in the region of the Great Lakes, by Edward T. Harper, has recently appeared in the *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences.* Complete notes and very handsome plates of about thirty species are included.

Professor J. C. Arthur and Dr. Frank D. Kern spent a month during the past summer in field work in Colorado in continuation of their investigations of the Uredinales. The time was chiefly spent in the southern and southwestern portions of the state in localities not visited by them on previous trips.

Mr. Guy West Wilson, formerly of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station, was awarded a research scholarship

at the Garden for the month of September to aid him in his researches on parasitic fungi. Mr. Wilson is continuing his work during the year as a graduate student of Columbia University.

C. Maublanc (Agr. Prat. Pays Chauds, 1912) describes a number of fungous diseases of vanilla, among them anthracnose due to *Calospora Vanillae,* brown spotting of the stems caused by *Nectria Vanillae,* rust caused by *Uredo Scabies,* leaf spots caused by *Fusicladium Vanillae, Phyllosticta Vanillae, Amerosporium Vanillae,* and *Ocellaria Vanillae,* and attacks by *Seuratia Coffeicola, S. Vanillae,* and *Cephaleuros Henningsii.*

A disease affecting the twigs of several species of elm, recently described by J. Eriksson (Myc. Centralbl. 1: 35–42. 1912), may be recognized by the small black pustules which dot the surface of the affected shoots. The causative fungus is described as *Exosporium Ulmi.* Careful inspection of nursery stock and the young growing trees and the burning of all dead and infected twigs are recommended as means of control.

A new paint-destroying fungus, described by Professor George Massee (Kew Bull. Misc. 325, 326. 1911) as *Phoma pigmentivora,* was found in England on fresh white paint in hothouses, appearing as pale rose-colored specks which increased in size and became darker in color until most of the paint was attacked and ruined. The presence of 2 per cent. of carbolic acid in the paint was found sufficient to prevent the development of the fungus.

Professor Thomas H. Macbride, professor and head of the department of botany, State University of Iowa, has been granted leave of absence for the year 1912–13, and is spending the time in botanical exploration in the western states. The latter part of the summer was spent in a mycological survey of the region near the snow line of Mt. Ranier with special reference to the Myxomycetes of that locality.